recommended 7 and 13 candidates on the basis of 1996 and 1997 examinations repsectively.

(f) No Sir.

Revision of Pay Scale of Stenographers

2145. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Board of Arbitration have announced an 'Award' in favour of revision of pay scale of Stenographers (Grade-D) in Central Secretariat Services;

(b) whether it is also a fact that during the hearing before the Board both sides are to give their written and oral arguments;

(c) whether action is being taken for implementation of the award;

(d) if so, the likely time to be taken; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and whether they are different from those raised before the Board, alongwith their details?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M. R. JANARTHANAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (e) Action with regard to acceptance/ rejection of the Award is being taken in accordance with the procedure laid down in the JCM scheme. As it also involves studying its impact on other cadres it will be difficult to specify a definite time limit for acceptance/ rejection of the Award.

Vacancies in CBI

2146. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that CBI is utterly understaffed and is finding it difficult to cope with the mounting workload;

(b) the number of vacancies which existed within the Organisation as on 31st October, 1998 as also the number of cases pending investigation by CBI on this date;

(c) the steps taken to fill the existing vacancies and by which time these are likely to be filled; and

(d) whether there is any proposal to increase the sanctioned strength of staff in CBI in accordance with the work-load and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M. R. JANARTHANAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) As on October 31, 1998, 787 posts were lying vacant in the CBI and the total of pending Cases was 1808.

(c) Action for filling up has been initiated in respect of more than 700 posts. The various stages reached in the filling up process include circulation of posts, inviting applications, verification of antecedents of selected candidates and issue of appointment letters. Filling up vacant posts in the CBI often involves coordination and consultation with different agencies like UPSC, SSC, State Governments, other Ministries/Organisation etc. and, therefore, it is not possible to give a fixed time frame for it. Orders for the induction of 14 officers in the ranks of SP & above have been issued.

(d) Requests for sanction of additional posts are considered keeping in view the norms for sanction of such posts and the requirements of the Organisation. The Government has sanctioned 106 posts on December 12, 1998 for strengthening the Economic Offences Division and the Special Crimes Division of the CBI.

Instructions for replies to letters of MPs

2147. SHRI K. M. KHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether instructions prescribing time limit for sending interim and final replies to letters received by Government Departments from M.Ps exist;

(b) if so, the time limit fixed for interim/ final replies;

(c) whether Government has been calling

for pending references every month from Government Departments wherein prescribed time limit has not been adhered to;

(d) whether this action will enable Government to ensure strict and effective compliance of instructions;

(e) whether Government has been reviewing these instructions from time to time to ensure effectiveness; and

(f) if so, the details thereof with last review undertaken and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M. R. JANARTHANAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The detailed guidelines exist in paras 57, 60 and 122 of the Central Secretariat Manual of Office Procedure to deal with the references received from the Members of Parliament. Replies to letters received from Members of Parliament should be sent within 15 days. In case some delay is anticipated in sending a final reply or information has to be collected from another Ministry or another office, an interim reply is required to be sent within a fortnight indicating the possible date by which a final reply can be given.

(c) and (d) Disposal of references from the Members of Parliament is the responsibility of the ministries/departments concerned. All Officers in the ministries/departments of the Government of India are expected to ensure that the replies to the Members of Parliament are sent expeditiously as laid down in the Manual of Office Procedure. There exists no centralised system of calling for pending references every month from all Government Departments wherein prescribed time limit has not been adhered to.

(e) and (f) The instructions regarding replies to letters received from the Members of Parliament have been reiterated from time to time for their strict compliance. The Cabinet Secretary has instructed all Secretaries to the Government of India on 21.5.98 in this regard.

परियोजनाओं को रोक दिया जाना

2148. **श्री बलवन्त सिंह रामूवालिया:**
श्री कपिल सिब्बल:

क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि अगस्त, 1997 से जुलाई, 1998 तक लगभग 77 निर्माणाधीन परियोजनाओं में कार्य को रोक दिया गया है, जिनमें अब तक 84,000 करोड़ रुपये से भी अधिक रुपये खर्च किये जा चुके हैं;

(ख) यदि नहीं, तो इस संबंध में ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) क्या यह भी सच है कि उक्त परियोजनाओं के निर्माण स्थायी रूप से बन्द करने के आदेश जारी किये गये है; यदि नहीं, तो कितनी परियोजनाओं के कार्य को स्थायी रूप से रोक देने के आदेश दिये गये हैं और कितनी परियोजनाओं के कार्य को स्थगित करने के आदेश दिये गये है?

रेल मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री संसदीय कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री तथा योजना और कार्यक्रम कार्यान्वयन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री राम नाईक): (क) और (ख) जी नहीं।

(ग) जून, 1998 तक, 20 करोड़ रुपए तथा उससे अधिक लागत वाली 451 परियोजनाएं कार्यक्रम कार्यान्वयन विभाग के प्रबोधन पर थीं। किसी परियोजना का कार्य न तो रोका गया है न ही स्थायी रूप से कार्य बंद या स्थगित करने के आदेश ही दिए गए हैं।

निर्माणाधीन परियोजनाएं

2149. **श्री बलवन्त सिंह रामूवालिया:**
श्री बरजिन्दर सिंह:

क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि देश में 215 परियोजनाएं अभी भी सरकार के निर्माणाधीन हैं;

(ख) यदि नहीं, तो सितम्बर, 1998 के अंत तक कितनी परियोजनाएं निर्माणाधीन थीं;

(ग) क्या यह भी सच है कि इन परियोजनाओं का निर्माण कार्य उनके निर्धारित समय से पीछे चल रहा है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो ऐसी कितनी परियोजनाएं हैं तथा उक्त विलम्ब के कारण उनकी निर्माण लागत में कितनी वृद्धि हुई है?